

Immature Cinereous Vulture *Aegypius monachus* in Senegal in February 2005

Jos A. Vroege

Un Vautour moine *Aegypius monachus* immature au Sénégal en février 2005. Le 23 février 2005, un Vautour moine *Aegypius monachus* immature a été photographié entre Touba et Louga, Sénégal, parmi un grand groupe de vautours comprenant quelques Vautours fauves *Gyps fulvus*. Il s'agissait probablement d'un oiseau provenant du sud-ouest de l'Europe. Au Sénégal, cette espèce a été rapportée également en janvier 2005 et le 13 février 2007.

Between 18 February and 4 March 2005, I visited The Gambia, Senegal and southern Mauritania with a group of Dutch birders. On 23 February we drove from Kaolack to St. Louis, in Senegal, along which road we noticed quite a number of dead livestock, occasionally attended by groups of vultures. Apart from Hooded *Necrosyrtes monachus*, White-backed *Gyps africanus*, Rüppell's *G. rueppelli* and Lappet-faced Vultures *Torgos tracheliotos*, we also observed several Eurasian Griffon Vultures *Gyps fulvus* (Fig. 1); the latter are uncommon Palearctic visitors to Senegal (Barlow *et al.* 1999).

Between Touba and Louga, we noted an immature Cinereous (=Eurasian Black) Vulture *Aegypius monachus* among a large group of vultures at the carcass of a horse (Fig. 2). We immediately

realised this was a remarkable observation, as Barlow *et al.* (1999) do not include this species and the only other field guide we had with us, Sinclair & Ryan (2003), only briefly mention Cinereous Vulture as a confusion species under Lappet-faced Vulture and as a Palearctic vagrant to the north of sub-Saharan Africa.

An immature Cinereous Vulture, photographed at Nianing near M'bour, south-east of Dakar, on 13 February 2007, was published previously as the first for Senegal (Talamelli 2007), but there is another record mentioned by Isenmann *et al.* (2010) involving a nestling that was ringed in Spain in 2004 and recovered in northern Senegal in January 2005. Thus, there are now three records for the country, of which ours is chronologically the second.



Figure 1. Eurasian Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus* (third from left) with, from left to right, Rüppell's Vulture *G. rueppelli*, Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotos* and White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus*, between Touba and Louga, Senegal, 23 February 2005 (Klaas de Vet)

Vautour fauve *Gyps fulvus* (troisième de gauche) avec, de gauche à droite, un Vautour de Rüppell *G. rueppelli*, un Vautour oricou *Torgos tracheliotos* et un Vautour africain *Gyps africanus*, entre Touba et Louga, Sénégal, 23 février 2005 (Klaas de Vet)



Figure 2. Immature Cinereous Vulture *Aegypius monachus* (right) with White-backed Vulture *Gyps fulvus* (middle) and Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotos* (left), between Touba and Louga, Senegal, 23 February 2005 (Klaas de Vet)

Vautour moine *Aegypius monachus* immature (à droite) avec un Vautour africain *Gyps fulvus* (au milieu) et un Vautour oricou *Torgos tracheliotos* (à gauche), entre Touba et Louga, Sénégal, 23 février 2005 (Klaas de Vet)

The birds observed in February 2005 and February 2007, like that in January 2005, presumably came from south-west Europe, perhaps having joined groups of immature Eurasian Griffon Vultures that crossed the Strait of Gibraltar. Cinereous Vulture is an accidental visitor to Morocco, with a few records in Algeria and Tunisia (Isenmann & Moali 2000, Thévenot *et al.* 2003, Isenmann *et al.* 2005). A Cinereous Vulture ringed in Spain in November 1994 was found dead in Mali in February 1995 (Talamelli 2007).

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Laanacker 15, 1902 AK Castricum, the Netherlands. E-mail: j.vroege@casema.nl

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First records of Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Calidris subruficollis* and Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* for Madagascar

Cuan Rush and David Hoddinott

Premières observations du Bécasseau roussâtre *Calidris subruficollis* et du Phalarope à bec étroit *Phalaropus lobatus* à Madagascar. Un Bécasseau roussâtre *Calidris subruficollis* et un Phalarope à bec étroit *Phalaropus lobatus* ont été photographiés le 1 et 20 octobre 2012, respectivement, entre Toliara et Ifaty, au sud-ouest de Madagascar. Ce sont les premières données pour le pays de ces espèces, qui nichent dans la région arctique.

On 1 October 2012, at c.09.00 hrs, a Rockjumper birding tour group led by CR was birding at a wetland between Toliara and Ifaty, in south-west Madagascar, when an interesting shorebird was seen foraging in a grassy patch. It superficially resembled a small Ruff *Calidris* (= *Philomachus*) *pugnax*, but it had a shorter,

straight black bill, a dark beady eye surrounded by a pale ring within an otherwise plain face, finely spotted breast-sides and yellow legs. Based on these features, the bird was identified as a Buff-breasted Sandpiper *C.* (= *Tryngites*) *subruficollis*. Some photographs were taken, one of which is reproduced here (Fig. 1). The bird continued to